



The Astwell Benefice

*St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury & St Lawrence Radstone St James the Great Syresham,
St John the Evangelist Whitfield,
St Mary and St Peter Lois Weedon & Weston with Plumpton St Mary the Virgin Wappenham*
www.astwellparishes.org.uk <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/28-008BM/>

Minutes of the BPCC Meeting held on 13th July 2026

1. The meeting opened with a prayer.
2. **Present:** Guy Rodger, Cliff Netten, Alice Palmer, David Billingham, Claire Bonner, Wiggy Smith, Kathleen Brunning, Rev Hugh White, Paul Stothard, Fiona Mason, Mike Stretten, Frank Hunter

Apologies: Sarah Rudkin, Sheena Warren, Sue Timmis
3. Review of minutes of last meeting were agreed as accurate.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - The Bank Mandate is still being discussed with the bank who have returned it several times
 - Consultation paper evaluating the Benefice structures is not yet available. There has been one meeting and the paper should be available for the next BPCC>
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5. **Committee reports:**
 - Read prior to or during the meeting - a few notes:**
 - Finance – we have received funeral and wedding blessing fees and so now have £400 in hand for Benefice expenses with one more wedding fee to arrive.*
 - Pastoral Care – let Wiggy know of anyone who would benefit from attending a Pastoral teaparty*

Action All.

6. Service Planner –

Morning Prayer Services from September :

Nicola & AP will cover Syresham, FH & MS will cover Lois, CN will cover Helmdon - possibly with a homily provided by HW, CN cannot do September 27th WS offered to take this.

August: Whitfield service on the 30th August is at 3pm.

September: Syresham Messy Harvest on the 27th at 3pm.

Lois Battle of Britain service September 27th.

October: Whitfield Harvest is on October 11th.

Lois will hold their Harvest service on October 25th

Wappenham & Helmdon are still debating when to hold their Harvest Celebrations.

Action CN SW

November: Remembrance at Whitfield will be led by WS. Helmdon 10am led by HW and PS to ask the Parish Council to do the act at the Memorial. HW will then move to Wappenham. AP in Syresham MS in Lois as usual.

December: The Syresham carol service will be at Chapel this year, Their Christmas Day service will be at 10:30 led by AP. GR will take the carol service at Wappenham. Whitfield Christingle will

be discussed outside the meeting. RM will be asked to take the Helmdon Christingle. Helmdon won't have an 11:30 service they will discuss having a 9pm service. MS will do morning prayer at Lois on Christmas Day.

Action Helmdon Whitfield

In the longer term HW will look at rearranging the services possibly having afternoon services for which he would be able to take.

MS asked if there were Lay Readers elsewhere who might take services. PS will talk to Sarah if this might be a possibility.

Action PS

7. APCM follow up

Worship Ideas The only new worship idea so far is Syresham's Messy Harvest, Whitfield might look at this too,

Safeguarding FM reported that she is having some IT training to help manage the admin side of Safeguarding. All PCC members must do the CofE Safeguarding courses website : <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org> , making us all aware about safeguarding. They also all need DBS checks. For this we should use Thirtyoneeight website but await further instruction - PS is looking at being able to enter people's information for them *otherwise members need to be given a self declaration form, a link to policies and the organisation reference and code and which type of check to complete.*

Action FM PS all

8. Let's Shine – Was great! Shine and Wine on July 20th 7pm in the Helmdon Reading Room.

9. CYPF youth worker – Papers were distributed for the meeting to read, describing visions for the role of a youth/children's youth and family worker. The we started the discussion with a prayer. It was agreed that there is a need: we don't have much contact with teenagers and we need better relationship with younger families. People were supportive but there are many details and challenges to be sorted e.g. employment arrangements, support for a worker, and funding. HW said we could try fundraising and if it is right it will happen. Any funds would be ring fenced for this purpose - and possibly returned if the proposal does not come to fruition.

KB asked if we could meet a youth worker to see what they do. AP suggested the youth worker from Brackley, who sometimes helps with Diocesan training.

Action Group?

PS proposal: We support the principles outlined, we acknowledge there are a lot of details to be worked out. HW to gather a group together to look at fundraising, a detailed job description and organisational issues. WS seconded the proposal. 11 in favour 1 abstention.

10. AOB - none

11. The meeting closed with the Grace at 9:15pm.